

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing listing of claims and the following remarks.

The above listed claims are being re-presented in this response but they have not been amended. Upon filing the amendment the applicant was unaware of the quality of transmission of the amendment.

Enclosed is a copy of the previously presented amendment for reference. Entry of this response and the above listing of claims is respectfully requested. Early allowance of the remaining claims is also respectfully requested.

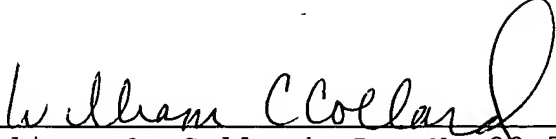
KOHLER ET AL-PCT
10/019,619

Applicant respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

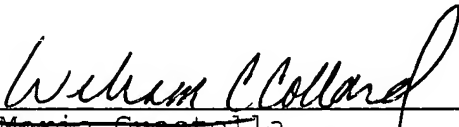
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Enclosure(s): Previously filed Amendment

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner of Patents, U.S. PTO, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 13, 2004.


~~Maria Guastella~~
WILLIAM COLLARD



PATENT

COPY

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: William KOHLER ET AL - PCT
SERIAL NO: 10/019,619 EXAMINER: Jason M. GREENE
FILED: DECEMBER 20, 2001 GROUP: 1724
TITLE: RING FILTER CONSISTING OF STAR SHAPED FOLDED FILTERING MATERIAL

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

MAIL STOP: NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's First Office Action dated June 12, 2003 with the time period for response being September 12, 2003 please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The Examiner has objected to the abstract. Accordingly, please replace the existing abstract with the abstract attached as attachment A.

Please amend the following claim of priority on page 1:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of GERMAN Application No. 199 28 448.2 filed on 23 JUNE 1999. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §~~120~~ 371 of PCT/DE00/01623 filed on 19 MAY 2000. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.

Please add the following paragraph on page 1 following the above claim of priority:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the following paragraph starting on page 1, line 2:

The invention concerns a ring filter made of star-shaped folded filtering material, ~~according to the preamble of patent claim 1.~~

Please amend paragraph 4 on page 1 as follows:

This problem is solved by the implementation of a ring filter
~~according to the preamble according to the characterizing~~
~~features of patent claim 1~~ described below.

Please add the following paragraph on page 1 after the above
amended paragraph:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following on page 2 before paragraph 5 which
starts on line 26 of page 2:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following paragraph on page 3 line 8:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The Rring filter according to claim ~~11~~ 20,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein,

~~the~~ said closure material ~~(5)~~ is a polyurethane foam.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The Rring filter according to claim ~~11~~ 20,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

~~the~~ said plate-shaped insert ~~(6)~~ is interlocked with ~~the~~ said tubular frame ~~(2)~~.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The R ring filter according to claim ~~11~~ 20;

wherein

~~characterized by the features~~

- ~~the~~ said plate-shaped insert ~~(6)~~ is a circular disk having an outer diameter that is smaller than the an inner diameter of ~~the~~ said filtering material,

- ~~the and wherein a~~ radial outside region of ~~the~~ said plate-shaped insert ~~(6)~~ extends axially into ~~the a~~ region of ~~the~~ said filtering material ~~(1)~~,

~~—when it and wherein said plate shaped insert is connected with the said tubular frame and extends axially a uniform distance relative to said tubular frame (2), the axial distance ranges of the plate shaped insert (6) distributed around the circumference are approximately uniform relative to the tubular frame (2).~~

Claim 15: (Currently Amended) The ~~R~~ ring filter according to claim ~~11~~ 20,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein,

~~the~~ said plate-shaped insert (6) has a ring collar ~~(12)~~ projecting in ~~the~~ a radially outward direction of the towards said tubular frame. (2) ~~radially outward relative to its position to be assumed on the tubular frame (2).~~

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ R ring filter according to claim ~~11~~ 20,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein,

~~the~~ said plate-shaped insert (6) has a plurality of radially projecting fingers ~~(14)~~ extending radially outside for an axial stop on ~~the~~ said filtering material ~~(1)~~.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The R ring filter according to claim ~~11~~ 20,

~~characterized in that~~

~~the~~ further comprising a plurality of fingers (14) projecting radially out from said plate shaped insert and ~~are~~ located in ~~the~~ a lower floor region and which have an extremely small axial dimension relative to ~~the~~ said height of ~~the~~ said radial outer surface of ~~the~~ said plate-shaped insert ~~(6)~~.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ R ring filter according to claim ~~11~~ 15,

~~characterized in that~~

further comprising a plurality of axial supports (10) are provided disposed on the said ring collar projecting in a radially outward direction relative to said tubular frame (12) for providing an axial stop on the said tubular frame (2).

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) R ~~The~~ ring filter according to claim ~~11~~ 20,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

~~the said plate-shaped insert (6) is provided with~~ has a plurality of radially elastic flexible tongues (8), projecting axially out from this said plate shaped insert (6) in the a direction of the said tubular frame (2), to achieve an interlocking connection with the tubular frame (2), with wherein said plurality of radially elastic the flexible tongues being include implemented as barbs (9) on their free end for axial fixing on the said tubular frame (2) to form an interlocking connection with said tubular frame.

Claim 20. (New) A ring filter having two ends comprising:

a) a star-shaped folded filtering material;

b) a radially permeable tubular frame having two ends, and which extends approximately over an entire axial length of said ring filter adjoining said filtering material radially on an inside surface of said filtering material;

c) a closure coupled to one end of said radially permeable tubular frame, said closure comprising:

i) a plate shaped insert coupled to said radially permeable tubular frame; and

ii) a molded closure section coupled to said plate shaped insert, extending radially outside said plate shaped insert and formed from a foamed plastic wherein said plate shaped insert is made from a different material; and

d) a ring shoulder formed on said tubular frame opposite said closure, wherein said ring shoulder joins a closed end of said filtering material of said ring filter.

Claim 21. (New) A cylindrical filter having two ends comprising:

- a) a filter material;
- b) a radially permeable tubular frame having two ends and which extends approximately over an entire axial length of said cylindrical filter radially inside, and adjacent to said filter material;
- c) a closure coupled to one end of said radially permeable tubular frame, said closure comprising:
 - i) a plate shaped insert coupled to said radially permeable tubular frame; and
 - ii) a molded closure section coupled to said plate shaped insert, extending radially outside said plate shaped insert covering an open end of said filter and formed from a foamed plastic; and
- d) a ring shoulder formed on said tubular frame opposite said closure, wherein said ring shoulder joins a closed end of said filtering material of said ring filter.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to the claim of priority. The Specification on page 1 line 4 has been amended as disclosed above. In addition, the Examiner has objected to references to the claims in the specification. The specification has been amended to remove these references.

The Examiner has also objected to the abstract. An amended abstract is enclosed as attachment "A" wherein the legal phraseology has been removed.

The Examiner has objected to the claims. The claims have been amended to remove reference numerals and also the terms "characterized by the features" and also the term "characterized in that". In particular, claims 11, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended to overcome these objections.

In particular, the Examiner has objected to claim 11, wherein the ring frame is particularly objected to. The term

"ring frame" has been changed to "tubular frame". In addition, the phrasing of claims 14 and 17 have been amended and the dependency of claim 18 has been changed so that it now depends from claim 15.

The Examiner has rejected claim 11, under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph. Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice. New claim 20 was written to include the elements of claim 11 and to overcome the above rejection. Early allowance of new claim 20 is respectfully requested. In addition, dependent claims 12-19 were stated as conditionally allowable by the Examiner. Claims 12-19 have been amended to overcome the above objections and are now ultimately dependent on new claim 20. Furthermore, new independent claim 21 includes many of the features and elements of claim 20 but is differs in that for example, it does not recite that the filter material is "star shaped". The applicant believes that this new claim 21 is also patentable. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the remaining claims.

Claims 12-21 remain in the application wherein claims 12-19 have been amended and new claims 20 and 21 have been added. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the remaining claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Attachment A	

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Fax No. 703-872-9310

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to the U.S.P.T.O. to Patent Examiner J.M. Greene at Group No. 1724, to 1-703-872-9310 on September 2, 2003.

William C. Collard

ATTACHMENT A

SERIAL NO: 10/019,619

ABSTRACT

A ring filter ~~consisting of~~ comprising a star-shaped folded filtering material and a closure on both front sides thereof in the form of a closed end disc. This ~~said~~ closure has a plate-shaped insert forming the central area of the closure and located radially inside the filtering material. The insert is made of a different material from that of the rest of the closure. The invention aims at providing a ring filter than can be rationally produced and that is more resistant and durable. To this end, the ring filter ~~is characterized by the following~~ has a radially permeable tubular frame that extends approximately along the entire axial length of the ring filter that borders radially inward on the filtering material; and wherein the plate-shaped insert is connected to the tubular frame and wherein the material of the closure is a foamed plastic.